AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A vehicle seatbelt winding apparatus comprising:

~~only one~~ a winding motor;

a collision predicting ~~unit programmed to~~ device configured to predict a collision with an object;

a brake detecting device configured to detect operation of a brake pedal; and

a microcomputer configured to:

~~a first winding control unit configured to~~ control the [[one]] winding motor so as to wind the seatbelt at a first winding load when a collision is predicted by the collision predicting ~~unit~~ device;

~~a brake detecting unit configured to detect operation of a brake pedal; and~~

~~a second winding control unit configured to~~ control the [[one]] winding motor so as to wind the seatbelt at a second winding load which is larger than the first winding load ~~when the~~ based on brake pedal operation [[is]] as detected by the brake detecting ~~unit~~ device; and

~~a winding motor release control unit configured to~~ control the winding motor so as to release the seatbelt to move freely upon detection of avoidance of the collision with the object while the seatbelt is wound by the [[one]] winding motor.

2. (Currently Amended) The vehicle seatbelt winding apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the ~~first winding control unit~~ microcomputer is adapted to increase a winding load of the seatbelt by the [[one]] winding motor to the first winding load from a moment when the collision is predicted by the collision predicting ~~unit~~ device at a first rising gradient, and

the ~~second winding control unit~~ microcomputer is adapted to increase a winding load of the seatbelt by the [[one]] winding motor to the second winding load from a moment when [[the]] brake pedal operation is detected by the ~~emergency~~ brake detecting ~~unit~~ device at a second rising gradient which is larger than the first rising gradient.

3. (Previously Presented) The vehicle seatbelt winding apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the second rising gradient is set to a value equal to or larger than 100 N/100 ms.

4. (Previously Presented) The vehicle seatbelt winding apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the first rising gradient is set to a value equal to or larger than 100 N/180 ms and smaller than 100 N/100 ms.

5. (Previously Presented) The vehicle seatbelt winding apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the second winding load is set to a value equal to or larger than 150 N.

6. (Previously Presented) The vehicle seatbelt winding apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the first winding load is set to a value between 80 N and 120 N inclusive.

7. (Currently Amended) The vehicle seatbelt winding apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the collision predicting ~~unit~~ device continuously detects a length from the vehicle in question to the object of collision, and predicts the collision with the object of collision based on the detected length which varies with time.

8. (Currently Amended) The vehicle seatbelt winding apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the brake detecting ~~unit~~ device detects [[the]] brake pedal operation based on at least any one of a pressing amount, a pressing speed, and pressing force of the brake pedal and a brake hydraulic pressure.

9. (Currently Amended) A vehicle seatbelt winding apparatus comprising:

~~only one~~ a winding motor;

a collision predicting ~~unit~~ device programmed to predict a collision with an object;

a brake detecting device configured to detect a brake pedal operation; and

a microcomputer configured to:

~~a first winding control unit configured to~~ control the [[one]] winding motor so as to wind the seatbelt from a moment when the collision is predicted by the collision

predicting ~~unit~~ device while increasing the winding load of the seatbelt at a first rising gradient;

~~a brake detecting unit configured to detect a brake pedal operation;~~

~~a second winding control unit configured to~~ control the [[one]] winding motor so as to wind the seatbelt while increasing the winding load of the seatbelt at a second rising gradient which is larger than the first rising gradient from a moment ~~when the~~ based on brake pedal operation [[is]] as detected by the brake detecting ~~unit~~ device; and

~~a winding motor release control unit configured to~~ release the seatbelt to move freely upon detection of avoidance of the collision with the object while the seatbelt is wound by the [[one]] winding motor.

10. (Previously Presented) The vehicle seatbelt winding apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the second rising gradient is set to a value equal to or larger than 100 N/100 ms.

11. (Previously Presented) The vehicle seatbelt winding apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the first rising gradient is set to a value equal to or larger than 100 N/180 ms and smaller than 100 N/100 ms.

12. (Currently Amended) The vehicle seatbelt winding apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the collision predicting ~~unit~~ device continuously detects a length from the vehicle in question to the object of collision and detects the collision with the object of collision based on the detected length which varies with time.

13. (Currently Amended) The vehicle seatbelt winding apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the ~~emergency~~ brake detecting ~~unit~~ device detects [[the]] brake pedal operation based on at least any one of a pressing amount, a pressing speed, and pressing force of the brake pedal and a brake hydraulic pressure.

14-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) The vehicle seatbelt winding apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the microcomputer controls the winding motor ~~release control unit releases~~ to release the seatbelt to move freely based on at least one of detecting steering operation by a vehicle driver, detecting stopping of the vehicle, and a predetermined time has passed without occurrence of the collision.

20. (Currently Amended) The vehicle seatbelt winding apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the microcomputer controls the winding motor ~~release control unit releases~~ to release the seatbelt to move freely based on at least one of detecting

steering operation by a vehicle driver, detecting stopping of the vehicle, and a predetermined time has passed without occurrence of the collision.